



# Lunenburg Public Schools

**Loxi Jo Calmes**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

## CALENDAR ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday, November 20, 2014 T. C. Passios Building- 7:15 p.m.

### Minutes

#### Calendar Advisory Committee

#### Superintendent

Colleen Shapiro – School Committee  
Ronald Hyatt – SAC LHS-absent  
Ashley Wheeler-SAC LHS- absent  
Dr. Gary Asher – Former Lunenburg Family Practice, Health Advisory Committee  
Brandon Kibbe – SAC LPS  
Amanda Waltz – Parent  
Louis Bettencourt – Parent  
Heather Sroka – School Committee  
Ami Powers – SAC THMS  
Katie McGuire- SAC LHS

Loxi Jo Calmes

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\* Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:20pm.

\* Review and Approve Minutes: Heather Sroka made a motion to accept the minutes of 11.13.14 minutes, Katie McGuire second the motion. **Vote: Unanimous.**

\* Review of Survey Results including Student Feedback: LHS students indicated more would like to start before labor day and more would like traditional Feb and April Vacations. Only one comment was listed - “not sure why we are being asked, no-one is going to listen”.

Brandon Kibbe had researched other areas that are going through these discussions – in almost all of them, there was a 70% positive vote, across the board to eliminate February Vacation.

Katie McGuire brought up the new state guidelines and Supt. Calmes explained the rationale behind this. State is recommending one week, March, vacation. Supt. Calmes informed that this was suggested after the ice storm – there was so much push back about waiving the 180 day requirement. Also discussion around the 180 days.

State guidelines also discussed the following:

1. set a time line – events after March, set a wavier
2. March vacation week
3. start before labor day.

Discussion if our survey said to get rid of February vacation, but keep April, how would results have looked.

\* Information from Town Clerk's Office: The breakout of our demographics is 70% either 2 working parents, or if 1 parent household, that parent is a working parent. Colleen Shapiro asked if we have 70% of working parents, what does that have to do with the educational goals of the school committee when setting this calendar.

Family perspective is going to impact groups regardless.

At the end of the day, what makes more sense for educational calendars and the days in the classroom – which days make the most sense.

If Lunenburg changed their calendar, we have a unique opportunity to experiment with change due to the new school. Gives justification and reasoning this year.

Discussion about areas of the country that go to school all year long. Supt. Calmes indicated the data was clear – building needs to be equipped to handle school in summers. Very hot summer days makes learning difficult. Buildings would have to have A/C.

Discussion about are working parents more likely to send kids into school sick, if they have taken too many days off due to ½ days, PD days or snow days.

The calendar is out early – and we have places for children to go – Ext, Day and Teen Center, however is there more of a need for child care during vacation weeks - is there more of a need for safe places for kids to go. Possibly a survey to see if parents want camps during vacation weeks.

\* Initial Calendar Recommendations:

The Committee discussed the Guidelines proposed to standardizing the calendar.

This gives a starting point each year when making the school calendar, and allows of people to know the general start date, vacation weeks, PD days and understand there will be no large shift year to year.

Also talked about an informational piece to the calendar. Letting people know there are 180 days, 5 snow days built in, however all need to be made up.

Talked about consistency of working – vacations vs breaks, also having full school weeks – if we have a holiday, then the PD day should be that same week.. have a full week, then a 3 day week – not 2 "4" day weeks

Dr. Gary Asher made a motion to vote on approving the guidelines. Katie McGuire seconded the motion.

**Vote: Unanimous**

\* Continue work on Outline for Final Report: Meeting cancelled for November 24, 2014.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, present calendar to School Committee

Brandon Kibbe made motion to vote on the calendar to present to school committee.

Heather Sroka seconded the motion, **Vote: Unanimous**

Next meeting December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm Town hall to present calendar

Set remaining meeting dates:

Thursday Jan 8, 2015 7:15pm

Thursday Jan 29, 2015 7:15pm

Thursday Feb 12, 2015 7:15pm

Thursday Feb 26, 2015 7:15

\* Adjournment: Heather Sroka made motion to adjourn meeting. Louis Bettencourt seconded the motion.

**Vote: Unanimous.** Meeting adjourned at 10:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ami Powers